

Anitiques: A Great Business or Hobby

by Virginia Parlato

Interested in antiques. There are several area shops that may have what you are looking for, or will be happy to help you find it. Antiquing appeals to all ages and personalities. Christopher Bagniet, Director of the The River Edge Galleries in Mishicot, is one area antique enthusiast who will look for special items for customers. He frequents auctions and even garage sales in northeast Wisconsin to find collectibles. His advice to antique collectors is to be "constantly alert, aware, and persistent" in order to find that special item.

To be a true antique, an object must be at least 100 years old, according to the U.S. Government. But any object from the past which has artistic value or historical importance may be deemed collectible. Tourists visit many local shops in the summer, but local residents are also frequent visitors says Bagniet. Many like to indulge in nostalgia and enjoy sharing memories while browsing.



Christopher Bagniet, Director of River Edge Galleries in Mishicot is there to help people know about antiques and the arts. News-Tribune Photo by Virginia Parlato

Newlyweds and younger shoppers are antiquing more often now than previously, according to Jerry Pagel, of Jerry's in Two Rivers. The quality and style of an item is an important part of the attraction. Personal taste and affordability dictate what will be collected.

Delores Chia, of Shade of Gold Antiques in Two Rivers, combines her love of antiques and meeting people in her work. She has made friends from all over the United States through a common interest in antiques. Most people who enjoy antiquing, Chia observes, also tend to be history buffs.

So next time you are cleaning out the attic, think twice before discarding that old picture frame, doll, or rocker. There just might be an antique enthusiast looking for that very item. Each antique has story to tell and there are plenty of hobbyists willing to listen.